

Claims

1. A cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a  
5 hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.
- 10 2. A composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid, or a salt thereof, is a copolymer of that monomer with another vinylic monomer.
3. A composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the gelling  
15 agent is a copolymer of a salt of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid with another vinylic monomer.
4. A composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the salt is an ammonium salt.
- 20 5. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of:  
ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer;  
ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / Beheneth-25 methacrylate copolymer;  
25 and  
ammonium acryloyldimethyltaurate / vinyl formamide copolymer.
6. A composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the gelling agent is  
30 ammonium acryloyl dimethyl taurate / vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.
7. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises less than 10% w/w of the gelling agent.

8. A composition as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the composition comprises less than 5% w/w of the gelling agent.
- 5 9. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.1% w/w of the gelling agent.
10. A composition as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the composition comprises more than 0.5% w/w of the gelling agent.
- 10 11. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises an amount of gelling agent in the range 0.1 to 5% w/w.
- 15 12. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent.
13. A composition as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the composition comprises a thickening agent selected from cellulose or derivatives thereof.
- 20 14. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 40% w/w.
15. A composition as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 50% w/w.
- 25 16. A composition as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the amount of water in the composition is in excess of 75% w/w.
- 30 17. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the hydroalcoholic gel comprises a C<sub>1-6</sub> alcohol as cosolvent.

18. A composition as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the cosolvent is a C<sub>2-4</sub> alkanol.
19. A composition as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the cosolvent is  
5 ethanol.
20. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 19, which comprises in excess of 5% w/w of the cosolvent.
- 10 21. A composition as claimed in Claim 20, which comprises in excess of 10% w/w of the cosolvent.
22. A composition as claimed in Claim 21, which comprises in excess of 20% w/w of the cosolvent.  
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23. A composition as claimed in Claim 22, which comprises in excess of 30% w/w of the cosolvent.
24. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 17 to 23, wherein the  
20 amount of cosolvent present in the composition does not exceed 50% w/w.
25. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the active ingredient is salicylic acid.
- 25 26. A composition as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.1% by weight.
27. A composition as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid in the composition is at least 0.5% by weight.  
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28. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 25 to 27, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 5% by weight.

29. A composition as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the concentration of salicylic acid is less than 3% by weight.
- 5 30. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises one or more further topically active ingredients useful in skincare.
31. A composition as claimed in Claim 30, wherein said one or more topically active ingredients are selected from the group consisting of:
- 10 antimicrobial or antibacterial compounds selected from the following: triclosan, neomycin, clindamycin, polymyxin, bacitracin, benzoyl peroxide, hydrogen peroxide, tetracyclines such as doxycycline or minocycline, sulfa drugs such as sulfacetamide, penicillins, cephalosporins such as cephalexin, and quinolones such as lomefloxacin, ofloxacin or trovafloxacin;
- 15 antiviral compounds, selected from acyclovir, tamvir, and penciclovir; antifungal compounds, selected from the following: farnesol, clotrimazole, ketoconazole, econazole, fluconazole, calcium or zinc undecylenate, undecylenic acid, butenafine hydrochloride, ciclopirox olamine, miconazole nitrate, nystatin, sulconazole, and terbinafine hydrochloride;
- 20 anti-inflammatory compounds, selected from the following: steroidal agents selected from hydrocortisone, fluocinolone acetonide, halcinonide, halobetasol propionate, clobetasol propionate, betamethasone dipropionate, betamethasone valerate, and triamcinolone acetonide, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents selected from aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen,
- 25 naproxen, aloe vera gel, aloe vera, licorice extract, pilewort, Canadian willow root, zinc, and allantoin; and metronidazole.
32. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 25 to 31, wherein the composition also comprises an antibacterial agent.
- 30 33. A composition as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the antibacterial agent is a peroxide antibacterial agent.

34. A composition as claimed in Claim 33, wherein the peroxide antibacterial agent is hydrogen peroxide or the composition comprises a compound that, in use, is capable of generating hydrogen peroxide.
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35. A composition as claimed in Claim 34, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is at least 1% by weight.
36. A composition as claimed in Claim 34 or Claim 35, wherein the
- 10 concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 5% by weight.
37. A composition as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the concentration of hydrogen peroxide is less than 2% by weight.
- 15 38. A composition as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the composition is in the form of a transparent gel or a cream gel.
39. A composition as claimed in Claim 38 wherein the cream gel is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.
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40. A method for the treatment of a person's skin, which method comprises the application to the skin of a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a
- 25 copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.
41. A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a therapeutic method.
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42. A method as claimed in Claim 41 for the prophylactic or remedial treatment of acne.

43. A method as claimed in Claim 40, which method is a cosmetic method.
- 5 44. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 40 to 43, wherein the composition is a composition as claimed in any one of Claims 2 to 39.
45. The use of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof as a gelling agent in a cosmetically acceptable skincare composition  
10 comprising a hydroalcoholic gel comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof, provided that if the composition contains xanthan gum, then it does not contain iron trichloride.
46. An article comprising a fibrous substrate impregnated with a  
15 cosmetically acceptable skincare composition in the form of a hydroalcoholic gel dispersion, the composition comprising salicylic acid or a salt thereof and a gelling agent in the form of a copolymer of acryloyl dimethyl tauric acid or a salt thereof.
- 20 47. An article as claimed in claim 46, wherein the fibrous substrate is impregnated with the skincare composition in an amount in the range from 10 to 30% by weight, preferably from 15 to 25% by weight and most preferably from 18 to 22% by weight of the fibrous substrate.
- 25 48. An article as claimed in either one of claims 46 or 47 wherein the substrate comprises cellulose or cotton fibres or a mixture thereof.